

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPM-01 AID-20 IO-14 HEW-08 EB-11 COME-00

ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 SIL-01 LAB-06

IGA-02 SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 /144 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DHKUX

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SPOP, IN

SUBJECT: POPULATION: DEATH RATE

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 8019; (B) NEW DELHI 7230

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR EXCELLENT REPORTS REFERENCED ABOVE.

2. PLEASE ALSO COMMENT ON FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM JUNE 22 ECONOMIST ARTICLE ON INDIA, WHICH CONTRASTS WITH CHANDRASEKHAR COMMENT IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTTEL (B):

QUOTE: ONE NOTICEABLE EFFECT OF A DECLINING DIET OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN A RISE IN THE DEATH RATE. INFANTS AND OLD PEOPLE ARE THE MAIN VICTIMS. INDIAN DOCTORS SAY THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME RISE IN CHOLERA, SMALLPOX AND MALARIA -- AND SMALLPOX IS BELIEVED TO HAVE KILLED ANYTHING UP TO 20,000 PEOPLE IN BIHAR ALONE THIS YEAR -- THE TWO

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BIG NEW KILLERS ARE PLAIN OLD UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

AND GASTROENTERITIS. BETWEEN 1969 AND 1972 INDIA'S CRUDE DEATH RATE ROSE FROM 14 PER 1,000 PERSONS TO 16.9. ACCORD-
ING TO SAMPLE SURVEYS PUBLISHED RECENTLY, THE DEATH RATE
IN PARTS OF UTTAR PRADESH REACHED 27.1 PER 1,000 LAST YEAR.
ENQUOTE.

3. WHAT IS YOUR BEST JUDGEMENT CONCERNING CURRENT TRENDS
IN DEATH RATES IN INDIA AND RELATIONSHIP THESE
TRENDS TO FOOD SITUATION?

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